

Meeting Summary
Coastal MRC Work Group
Montesano, WA
December 3, 2008 1 pm – 4 pm

Copies of meeting handouts are available by contacting Brie Van Cleve at brie.vancleve@dfw.wa.gov or (360) 902-2750.

Welcome and Introductions

Brie Van Cleve, WDFW Coastal Marine Resource Committee (MRC) Program Coordinator, welcomed meeting attendees and stated the meeting purpose was to review and revise the program priorities and benchmarks developed at the Sept 5 and Oct 10 meetings. 27 people were in attendance (see list below).

Announcements

Brie announced that the WDFW Director Jeff Koenings has resigned and Deputy Director Phil Anderson will serve as the Interim Director. Brie announced that MRC briefing materials were distributed electronically to the Olympic Coast Sanctuary Advisory Committee for their Nov 21 meeting (see attached briefing memo). Brie stated that four coastal counties are exploring forming an MRC. Participants were invited to provide an update on county MRC activity.

- John Kliem and Debbie Holden summarized Grays Harbor County's E-MRC progress. Through the E-MRC's four (of 6) meeting, the group has created a vision, identified barriers, explored strategies, and initiated a plan for strategy implementation. John and Debbie were asked how get and keep E-MRC participants. They answered that they use email, their website, and word of mouth and keep people interested by accomplishing a lot during short meetings, ensuring participant ownership of ideas/products, and assigning homework. Next meetings are Dec 17 and Jan 7 at the Montesano City Hall.
- Tami Pokorny and John Richmond summarized Jefferson County's activity. A first "exploratory" meeting was held with the Hoh River Residents' Association in November and another outreach meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan 6.
- Michael Nordin and provided an update on Pacific County's activities. As soon as the contract is in place with WDFW, Pacific County will begin outreach meetings. Several meeting ideas have been developed.
- Rich Osborne summarized Clallam County's activity. As soon as the contract is in place, Clallam will begin MRC outreach activities.

Agenda Additions

It was requested that the group discuss how decisions are made by this body, specifically how we'll decide on "final" priorities/benchmarks, and that the group discuss and create a protocol for distributing material generated by this group externally. There was also a request to clarify WDFW's criteria for distribution of Coastal MRC Program funds.

Decision-making, External Communication, Funding Distribution Process

Since the Coastal MRC Work Group is not an official advisory committee compliant with all relevant WDFW policy direction, there is currently no formal decision-making or external communication process. Thus far, the group has operated by consensus and membership has been voluntary and in some cases fluid. Brie offered assurance to the group that WDFW recognizes the importance of the group and is committed to honoring the group's decisions and products. The group did not decide on formal procedures/protocol, but agreed the topic was important to consider and revisit in the future. The group decided to accept changes to program priorities and benchmarks by consensus, but asked Brie to write a preamble explaining how the priorities/benchmarks were developed, how and when they might be amended, and the ability of counties to change or focus activity within specific benchmarks.

Brie clarified WDFW's funds distribution policy to offer \$25K to counties interested in exploring establishing an MRC and \$15K for projects once an MRC has been established. There is no "application" for funds, but rather a negotiation of mutually agreeable terms, scope, and deliverables by WDFW and the county.

Northwest Straits MRC Conference Debrief

Brie asked for observations from attendees at the NWS Conference Nov 7, 8. Key McMurry, Rich Osborne, Katie Krueger, Nancy Allison, Ed Bowen, Colby Brady, Eric Delvin, Kathy Greer, Jennifer Hagen, Jody Kennedy, and Michael Nordin attended and agreed that the conference was useful and encouraging. Some were impressed that the NWS MRCs remain grassroots and locally driven organizations.

Revise Draft Benchmarks

The group first revised the program goal statement to everyone's satisfaction and then reviewed and made several changes to the priority statements. Please see attached "Benchmarks-Priorities version 4" document for revisions. The group also discussed the scope of MRCs and agreed that the scope is marine and estuarine focused, but does not preclude focus on a freshwater or terrestrial resource with direct marine or estuarine resource impacts. To illustrate the flexibility of the scope, Larry Bishop pointed out that the statute clearly reads that: *the mission of a MRC...is to address, utilizing sound science, the needs of the marine ecosystem local to the county initiating the MRC.*

NOTE: Group additions/changes are highlighted in yellow in the attached document. Brie has reviewed the remaining benchmarks and inserted several comments for group consideration. In preparation for the next meeting, the group agreed to review the attached Benchmark-Priority version 4 document as well as the forth coming preamble.

Next Meeting

The next Coastal MRC Work Group meeting will be **Jan. 7th, 1-4 pm** at the Montesano City Hall. This meeting will exclusively focus on finalizing the program priorities and benchmarks. Brie will circulate updates and announcements by email.

Attendees:

Arthur (R.D.) Grunbaum, Friends of Grays Harbor
Bob Burkle, WDFW
Brie Van Cleve, WDFW Coastal MRC Program
Debbie Holden, Creative Community Solutions
Douglas Fricke, Coalition of Coastal Fishermen
Ed Bowen, North Pacific Coast Lead Entity
Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy
Janet Kearsley, DNR Natural Areas Program
Jenna Norman, WDFW Lead Entity Program
Jennifer Hagen, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Jody Kennedy, Surfrider Foundation
Joe Schumacker, Quinault Indian Nation
John Hansen, DNR
John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions
John Richmond, North Pacific Coast Lead Entity
Kathy Greer, Surfrider Foundation
Katie Krueger, Quileute Tribe
Key McMurry, WBWRCC, Ecological Land Services
Larry Bishop, Citizen at Large
Lauri Vigue, WDFW Lead Entity Program
Liam Antrim, OCNMS
Mark Cedergreen, Westport Charter Boats Association
Michael Nordin, Pacific Conservation District
Miles Batchelder, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
Nancy Allison, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
Rich Osborne, Clallam County
Steve Harbell, WSU Extension/ WA Sea Grant
Tami Pokorny, Jefferson County